

**The Church of the Epiphany
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: April 10, 2007**

The meeting opened at 7 PM with a devotional and prayer time, followed by the vestry prayer.

Vestry Members Attendance: Present (P), Excused (E)

Black, Murray	E	Pantzer, Larry	P
Cummings, Ross	P	Reed, David	P
Gregg, Ted	P	Reiter, Scott	P
Holmes, Kevin	P	Stromberg, Margaret	P
Morris, Ralph	E	Ticer, John	E
Oliphant, Mark	E	Welch, Jan	P

Also present: Father Robin, Babette Arnold, and Robby Pruitt.

Reports and Old Business:

1. Vestry Retreat Plans and Upcoming Events.

Steve Mentzer and Lisa Elis will be with us on Friday, April 13, starting at 6:30 pm. On Saturday we will start at 10:00 am with coffee and fellowship, followed by worship and time with prayer partners. After lunch, Bishop Bena will speak, followed by Eucharist. Bishop Bena will be with us on Sunday for services and a Parish Update. The installation of Martin Minns as bishop of CANA will be May 5 at Hylton Chapel in Woodbridge.

2. Minutes.

The minutes for the meeting of March 13, 2007 were approved, as amended to reflect the updated retreat times above, by unanimous voice vote on a motion by Scott, seconded by Margaret.

3. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report – Scott.

Another \$15,000 in special giving on April 1 made up for somewhat low pledge giving to keep us close to budgeted revenue. Those who don't have a budget spread across the year may wish to get together with Scott. He plans to meet with Tom Miller and Charlie Monroe later in April to begin more detailed planning. Attendance seems to be running about 50 below last year, but giving remains close to budget. Great Commission money continues to come in, with over \$81,000 given year to date. Scott will stop publishing Gifts & Memorials statistics, which are unchanged. The Assistant Youth Director position was unfunded in this year's budget. Robin, Luke, and Robby have asked that we change that. We have set up new 403B retirement accounts at the same matching level as before. Patrick Condemi will be attending a church building management course in Indianapolis. We should institute a per diem allowance, e.g. \$40 per day, as a matter of policy. The report was approved by unanimous voice vote on a motion by Jan, seconded by Margaret.

4. Youth Intern – Robby.

College students helping with youth ministry are a great asset. Having a female assistant later in the year helped a lot with the girls. Austin and Lauren have been a blessing in relational ministry. There is now a need to adjust our youth ministry to do more outreach and contemporary worship. Austin has musical talent and we would do well to keep him. The new position could be filled with Austin at 25 hours per week, freeing Austin's position for a female intern to continue to help with the girls. This would cost at most \$8,750 from May 1 to the end of the year. Austin and Lauren have grown significantly during their time at Epiphany and we are equipping new ministers as part of our intern program. A **motion** by David to fund this

position at \$8,750 for this year was seconded by Kevin and approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. Anglican District of Virginia Budget Request – Scott.

Scott provided a handout describing a \$24,336 request to fund ADV for the next six months, based on an allocation to member churches according to average Sunday attendance. It does not take into account our debt load. Much of the money would go to needy churches and to CANA. Ted recommends that we immediately commit the \$13,000 we would normally have given the diocese, and take our time deciding how much more to give. A **motion** by Ted to commit to ADV the \$13,000 already in this year's budget for diocesan support was seconded by Jan and approved by unanimous voice vote.

6. Rector Report – Robin.

There will be clergy cookout here on April 24 for fellowship and networking.

7. Chancellor Report – David.

The Virginia Supreme Court agreed to consolidate all Diocese of Virginia cases in Fairfax Circuit Court, which is what all parties wanted. Lawsuits from the Diocese are structured separately from those of TEC, which have not yet been consolidated. The filing distributed at our last meeting has not yet been set for argument. That will likely occur in the next 60 days. There is no news on a possible settlement. Mary McReynolds has used her original \$10,000 retainer, plus additional sums of \$2,200 paid and \$1,823 invoiced, and requests that we fund a second retainer in the amount of \$10,000. David will write a litigation update explaining our situation for Mary's review and will provide the article for the next issue of the Star.

8. Alteration of Church Calendar – Scott.

Separating vestry terms from budgeting would enable us to focus on learning vestry duties without the strain of developing a new budget at the same time. We discussed pros and cons of various dates for Stewardship, e.g. January (just after Christmas), April (just after tax season), or as it is now (keeps personal commitments on a calendar year basis). Babette pointed out the value of a Fiscal Year approach to teaching programs, which parallel the school year and should be planned accordingly. There was general agreement on elections in the fall, not later than the first Sunday in November, and stewardship in the spring, soon after Easter, with a Fiscal Year beginning July 1. Scott will put this together for formal consideration in May.

Committee Reports and New Business

9. Fellowship Committee Report – Jan.

The committee identified many things we could be doing:

- Bigger sign with banners
- Contact visitors within week for feedback
- Newcomers table within the coffee hour
- Ushers hand out info packets in the service, like we used to do
- Leadership or sponsor families to integrate new families into parish life
- Ministry handout/brochures
- Invitations to all parish events
- "What's happening this month" flyers
- "What we believe" banner

The Easter reception went very well. People flowed in to help. We are ready for Bishop Bena's visit next Sunday.

10. Clarification of Identity – Robin.

This is a transitional period in the Anglican Communion. Globally, we are Anglicans. Nationally, we are in CANA. Locally, we are in the Anglican District of Virginia. We need to be seeking out newcomers. We should bring our families into the process. Larry noted that we need to think of this as "branding" – we all need to know how to explain these new organizations to our members and newcomers.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM by unanimous consent to Scott's motion and Ross's second, and was followed by an Agape feast.

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Prepared by Larry Pantzer
Version: Approved